Description of the tool offered to growers: AgComplyIT

Objectives

- Develop a tool to help California producers form a coherent plan to identify and comply with state and federal regulations.
- Reduce risk and anxiety about regulatory compliance by helping them develop a list of regulations they need to follow based on answers to a series of questions.
- Provide a format for an action plan to comply with regulations affecting their operation.

AgComplyIT is a tool that will work by asking producers questions about their operations to see if they meet the trigger points for certain regulations. For instance; *if* they answer that they farm less than 100 contiguous or adjacent acres *then* they are NOT captured under the current SJAQMD requirements to file a CMP plan. This will alleviate worry about regulations that do not apply to a given producer at this time and allow him or her to concentrate on creating a plan to manage those that do apply.

The tool will provide producers with a list of regulations where the trigger point has been met. It will be a matrix with clickable hotlinks to data stored on the AgComplyIT CD as well as links to agency websites where information about how to comply will be available. Another sheet will allow producers to develop an action plan for compliance.

At this time, the tool will cover only federal and state regulations related to production agriculture. However, the resource section will have links to agencies and organizations that can help producers address local regulations and agriculture adjuncts such as value-added processing and tourism-related businesses.

Questions that users may ask (FAQ):

What is AgComplyIT?
AgComplyIT is an Excel™-based tool to help California producers develop a coherent plan to identify and comply with state and federal regulations affecting production agriculture.

Will AgComplyIT cover every regulation I have to follow?
No. At this time the scope of AgComplyIT is limited to state and federal regulations but the resource section will help you locate a resources for complying with local regulations. Remember regulations change over time. AgComplyIT is a tool to help you comply, not a guarantee of compliance. You should regularly check with your Cooperative Extension office, local Farm Bureau, growers associations and other ag related groups to stay on top of regulatory issues.

Will AgComplyIT let me know which regulation I need to comply with when two regulations conflict?
AgComplyIT does not interpret regulations. When an operation meets the trigger points of two similar regulations, both will appear in the regulatory matrix. The action plans you make will have you check with both regulators for clarification.

Where can I get a copy of AgComplyIT?
You can get a free CD from your local Ag Commissioners office or download a disc image from the project web site at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/aep/aes or call 530-852-4768.

AgComplyIT Flowchart

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                    Operational
                    Information
                    Questions
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Production                          Production
Questions                           Questions
Crops                               Animals
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                    Matrix of
                    Regulatory
                    Captures
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            Compliance steps
            and Action plan
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